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Rec'd: August 24, 1954
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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 210, August 24, 11 a.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 210, REPEATED INFORMATION MEXICO CITY 15.

Junta President Castillo Armas and Foreign Minister Salazar received me together yesterday and gave general approval to proposals outlined in Department telegram 150 regarding disposition asylees but on detailed interpretation of certain points they took positions which appreciably modify Department's plan.

As regards paragraph 1C, they said Guatemalan Government is not prepared extend blanket invitation for "Communist agents" to remain in Guatemala. They believe and I agree that continued presence here of major Communist leaders would constitute danger national security and they should consequently not be allowed opportunity to remain under cloak of "rehabilitation." In this connection it should be borne in mind that Guatemalans have not yet set up any rehabilitation program and I question their ability to carry one out effectively at the present time.

President and Foreign Minister agreed to release "Communists agents found harmless" on assumption this means Minister or rank and file PGT members or collaborators such as members local agrarian committees who were puppets of Communist leaders.

Guatemalans prepared guarantee "humane treatment" (paragraph 1E) subject to understanding that penalties decreed by courts will be carried out. Guatemala penal code provides death penalty for certain offenses, and it is quite possible that persons convicted of torture and murder of anti-Communists and of assassination in 1949 of Colonel Arana would be executed.

While these conditions may make proposals less attractive to Mexicans it is important they should understand fully Guatemalan Government's viewpoint to avoid misunderstanding and friction later.

PEURIFOY

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